

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 18, 2022
Final Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez	CA State Parks: Eric Abma
AMBAG: Jenny McAdams	Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
At-Large: Dan Haifley	Conservation: Rachel Kippen
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann	Diving: Brian Nelson
At-Large: PJ Webb	Education: Felicia Van Stolk (A)
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley (A)	Harbors: John Haynes
CA Coastal Commission: absent	Recreation: Gary Pezzi
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly	Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes
CA EPA: Julia Dyer	Research: John Hunt
CA Resources Agency: Elyse Goyen	Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent	Monterey Bay NMS: Lisa Wooninck
College: Jacob Winnikoff	Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh (A)
Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank NMS: Brian Johnson	National Marine Fisheries Service: Steven Bograd (A)
U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Chris Bell	

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Carol Maehr – At Large	Adam Helm – Recreational Fishing
Cynthia Matthews – At-Large	Steven Haddock – Research
Gwen Kellas – At Large	Dawn Mathes – Tourism
Keith Rootsart – Diving	Chelsea Protasio – CDFW
Bart Selby - Recreation	Dawn Hayes – MBNMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jenny McAdams was welcomed as AMBAG's new representative replacing Steve McShane. Julia Dyer announced her replacement Peter Von Langer will be joining us in April. Thank you, Julia and Steve, for your engagement over the past several years.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes: with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly
Motion by PJ Webb, seconded by John Haynes
Yes: 13 No: 0 Abstain: 3 no response: 1
Motion passes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Maehr requested a statement from the advisory council in support of the COAST's efforts to remove the NMFS surplus building in Pacific Grove from GSA's auction. COAST is proposing to use the building for marine science and art community-based activities.

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III. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent's Report

Lisa Wooninck – Superintendent, shared a Superintendent's Report for MBNMS. Highlights included:

1. Update on impacts of COVID-19 and telework
2. MBNMS 30th / ONMS 50th Anniversary activities
 - a. [Whalefest March 19/20](#) Monterey Wharf and Plaza
 - b. [Day on the Beach with Shared Adventures](#) July 9th Santa Cruz Wharf
 - c. ONMS Stamp Unveiling Aug 5th at the Exploration Center
 - d. Coastal Cleanup Day Sept 17th
 - e. Sanctuary Fest Sept 18th Exploration Center Plaza and SC Wharf
 - f. Other activities to be announced.
3. [Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere's Moss Landing Marine Lab seminar](#) will be posted soon
4. 21 school programs delivered to 555 students this fiscal year (Oct 21 – present)
5. New bilingual education specialist hired to expand engagement
6. [Back Abalone Web Story](#)
7. Policy Letters/Reports
 - a. Morro Bay Wind Energy Area letter to BOEM
 - b. Port Access Route Study letter to USCG
 - c. CA Decadal MPA Review report to CDFW
8. Results of soil biodegradable plastic mulch trials to be [presented at upcoming webinar March 1](#)
9. Two ACCESS Cruses planned for May and July
10. Vessel Incidents intern onboard, will work with new AC subcommittee and GFNMS

Brian Johnson – Deputy Superintendent for Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank NMSs shared their report. Highlights included:

1. Successful [Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium](#)
2. GFNMS published comprehensive Tomales Bay eelgrass inventory
3. Preparing Condition Reports for GF and CB NMSs
4. Commented on Pac-PARS study
5. Presented to 175 Pilots (Secret Sights only Pilots Can See) for overflight best practices
6. After School program reached 88 students this fall
7. New GFNMS poster developed, CBNMS in development (50th anniversary series from HQ)

IV. INFORMATION ITEM: America the Beautiful Initiative and 30 x 30

Presentation by Heather Sagar (NMFS) on NOAA's plans regarding the America the Beautiful initiative. NOAA is seeking public comment on their planning effort. She outlined the eight principles of the plan:

- Pursuing a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation;
- Conserving America's lands and waters for the benefit of all people;
- Supporting locally led and locally designed conservation efforts;
- Honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations;

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- Pursuing conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities;
- Honoring private property rights and supporting the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners;
- Using science as a guide; and
- Building on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches.

[Federal Register notice: Request for Information to Inform Interagency Efforts to Develop the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas](#)

Discussion about the lack of a definition for conservation followed, and the council was asked to provide input through the public comment process to help solidify this by March 7th. Sanctuaries will be considered part of the percentage conserved. NOAA is working with the state of CA. The White House's Council on Environmental Quality is working with the Departments of the Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture on this effort and the Departments of Energy and Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency have now been included. The executive order doesn't have any new regulatory authorities, but relies on the authorities in place with agencies now. All agencies will have to work under NEPA.

There is a parallel state effort (a little ahead of NOAA's) and Elyse let the council know the state's comment period closed in December. More information can be found at these websites: <https://www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30>
<https://canature.maps.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/content/items/6c91c7bed8e24ec09736d057b93b2cd3/data>

V. ACTION ITEM: Term Limits Waiver

The term limits the MBNMS Advisory Council requested from John Armor on August 20, 2021 were approved by ONMS. The council voted to amend its charter to include the waiver language allowing a termed out alternate to apply for one term as primary.

Motion to amend the MBNMS Advisory Council Charter by Gary Hoffman, seconded by PJ Webb

Yes: 16 No: 1 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Brian and Dan announced both the Chair and Vice Chair seats would be vacated in October when their Executive Committee terms end, so talk to them if you are interested in serving in this capacity. Elections will be held in Oct 2022, these are two-year terms. Please see the [Charter](#) for details on Officers and Elections (#6 about midway down the web page).

VI. ACTION ITEM: Vessel incidents Subcommittee

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The resource protection coordinators have evaluated vessel incidents in sanctuaries over the past seven years. There is a report coming out that will be shared with the AC. Findings of importance:

- 156 incidents of groundings, sinkings, and abandonment underway
- 70% of these occur along MB/GF shorelines and
- 50% w/in MBNMS boundaries.

Fuel and debris are significant resource protection issues and sanctuary staff do what they can to facilitate the removal of these vessels as quickly as possible. GF has some challenging issues with vessel removal delays and their advisory council has formed a subcommittee who will seek advice from a variety of experts on the topic to form recommendations for the superintendent. Paul Reilly mentioned the Law Enforcement Tactical Advisory Committee does discuss things like this and could be a resource.

Lisa W requested the development of a MBNMS AC subcommittee to learn more about vessel incidents alongside the GFNMS subcommittee. The MBNMS subcommittee will bring this information back to the council, and later in the year, Lisa may ask for the expansion of this group to explore recommendations on the topic. Dan Haifley, PJ Webb, Brian Nelson, and Gary Hoffman were interested in joining Lisa at these GFNMS subcommittee meetings. Lisa will follow up with this group, as we are limited to the number who can attend the GFNMS subcommittee meetings.

John Haynes made the motion to establish the subcommittee, Dan Haifley seconded.

Yes: 17 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2

Motion passes

VII. ACTION ITEM: MBNMS Advisory Council 2022 Work plan

The proposed 2022 advisory council work plan was reviewed. Lisa was appreciative of the council's input. Several topics were emphasized as high priority (Climate and Marine Debris) and have been grouped for more impact. Staff are hoping to integrate the work plan process into the meetings a little better with the 2022 October meeting, where they will present future topics suggested based on resource protection needs.

The [State's MPA Long Term Monitoring Report](#) was mentioned as a topic of interest. There will be special webinars on this topic, hosted by the state, so this information will be shared when available. The State's MPA Decadal Review was requested to be added to December 2022.

Motion to approve the work plan passed.

Gary motioned to approve the work plan, PJ seconded the motion.

Yes: 18 No: 0 Abstain: 0 No answer: 2

Motion passes

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VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: Research Update

Steve presented the team, its accomplishments and priority projects for the rest of the year. The team has had a very successful year.

Andrew DeVogelaere has taken a slightly different role this year encouraging scientists to address MBNMS's management plan research and monitoring through seminars, graduate student advising and guest lectures. He is also addressing regional priorities of vessel replacement, white shark movement patterns and the role of sound in resource management.

Erica Burton has been working on several deep-coral surveys and has taken on the role of developing MBNMS's Indigenous Communities Engagement Plan with Lisa Wooninck, is updating MBNMS shipwreck profiles for the web, and is working with a team to update the MBNMS website.

Chad King has been the PI on several cruises including the octopus garden at Davidson Seamount, coral translocation experiments at Sur Ridge, and characterizing damage at a vessel grounding in Big Sur, and he co-produced the award-winning short film *Discover Wonder: The Octopus Garden*. He has cruises coming up at Davidson and Sur Ridge, is supporting the proposed Chumash Heritage NMS with GIS work, and continues his work with the education team on story maps and interactives in addition to supporting the SIMoN website and our Sea Photo application.

Jenn Brown has co-authored four of the six peer reviewed research team publications in 2021, is working with several west coast sanctuaries to webenize their condition reports, and has developed a Sanctuary Soundscape web portal. This webenizing entails developing web-enabled tools hosted by NOAA's observing systems. OCNMS's condition report will be the first released and MBNMS is not far behind. These focus on sanctuary-scaled trends, data and maps for marine heatwaves, kelp canopy, sea stars, etc.

Steve Lonhart worked on the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* paper on disease-driven mass mortality of the sunflower sea star *Pycnopodia helianthoides*, assisted a UCSC doctoral student with the rescue and translocation of over 200 endangered black abalone in Big Sur, collaborated on surveys at Tanker Reef, and co-wrote a methods paper for PISCO subtidal surveys with Mark Carr and Dan Malone (in press). He is a member of the ESA Status Review Team for *Pycnopodia helianthoides*, is collaborating on a kelp forest monitoring manuscript for OCNMS, and will continue field work at Tanker Reef, in Big Sur with black abalone, at GFNMS doing kelp surveys and characterizing sponge diversity in Monterey Bay. He is also standing in for Dr. DeVogelaere through October.

Council members expressed their appreciation and kudos for the extensive body of work shared.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.